



Basic Training Information

B/1-19th Field Artillery



18FEB-24APR2015

CLASS 27-15

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Greetings! I am Captain Anthony Varela, your Soldier's Battery Commander during Initial Entry Training into the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely at Fort Sill and will begin Basic Combat Training in my unit.

During the nine-week training period, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be very strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed will help each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the Cadre who will train your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of each Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the Army's most important asset and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's basic training experience both challenging and rewarding.

YOU WILL HEAR FROM YOUR SOLDIER SOON!



By now, you should have already received a phone call from your Soldier. All Soldiers are given the opportunity to call home within the first 72 hours upon arrival to Basic Combat Training. Afterwards, Soldiers are occasionally afforded the PRIVILEGE to utilize the telephone (usually during weekends after their third week of training); however, Soldiers may have this privilege revoked for poor performance or misconduct.

I ask that you not attempt to contact your Soldier by phone. If there are any concerns regarding the health and welfare of your Soldier, I will personally let you know, or your Soldier will be allowed to call home.

YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am sure that your Soldier will miss you a great deal. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity. Be assured that your Soldier will have ample time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

PVT Soldier's Name + (last four of Social Security Number)
Bravo Btry, 1-19 Field Artillery, PLT# _____ CLASS 27-15
5970 South Boundary Road
Fort Sill, OK 73503-5001.



Packages are generally not permitted because your Soldier can buy everything he/she needs here at our local Post Exchange. However, if you choose to send your Soldier a package, please observe the following guidelines:

- ✓ No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco, or narcotics
- ✓ No weapons
- ✓ No radios, TV's, cameras, or other electronic devices
- ✓ No pornographic or morally questionable materials
- ✓ No magazines
- ✓ **No food items, candy, cookies, snacks, etc. (this attracts rodents and can cause a disease outbreak)**
- ✓ **WHEN IN DOUBT- JUST SEND LETTERS!**

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SENDING PACKAGES! Your Soldiers only have a small drawer to store personal items, and will not have space to keep items sent from home.

WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?

The best thing you can do is write as many encouraging letters as possible. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Small tasteful photos are also a great motivator for Soldiers.

HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?

Today's Soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, with dignity, and respect. Abuse of any kind is not tolerated. Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-Commissioned Officers in the Army and are highly qualified to train recruits.

MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?

Yes. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations and bible study. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?

If a Soldier fails to meet any of the graduation requirements, every effort will be made for the Soldier to retake the portion he/she fails. In the event the Soldier cannot pass or retake that portion, he/she will be considered for a transfer (recycle) to another unit to complete the remaining training requirements. If a Soldier fails the final BPFT (Basic Physical Fitness Test), we will make every effort to provide that Soldier an opportunity to retake the BPFT. Passing the BPFT is a graduation requirement and if, despite our best efforts, he/she still cannot pass prior to graduation, the Soldier may be assigned to the Fitness Training Unit (FTU). Upon passing the BPFT at FTU, the Soldier will move on to his/her Advanced Individual Training (AIT). We will ensure that your Soldier is afforded the opportunity to call home in order to keep you updated on his/her status.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office who will, in turn, contact me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted, (this is case by case basis only). Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Should any injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's large, professional, medical staff at state of the art medical facilities. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits. Injuries that prevent Soldiers from graduating will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Any Soldier who is injured during training and cannot complete the remaining training requirements will be transferred to the Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Program (PTRP) to recover. Once the Soldier recovers, he/she will be sent to another training unit to resume the portion of training he/she missed.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, he/she will graduate at **10:00 AM. on Friday, April 24th**, at McMahon Auditorium in Lawton, Oklahoma.

I understand that you will want to make travel plans early in order to get the best travel deals. However, please talk to your Soldier at every opportunity regarding his/her graduation status. I recommend that you **DO NOT** make any plans or travel arrangements which cannot be changed or canceled until you have received notice from your Soldier that he/she will graduate. Your Soldier should know his/her graduation status by the end of the 7th week of training. In a few weeks, we will post specific graduation information on our website.

SHIPPING TO ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT)

As per normal scheduling, your Soldier will ship to AIT beginning on **25th of April** (the day after graduation) via government-provided transportation. We will post more information about this process on our website in a few weeks. **No Soldier is authorized to proceed to AIT by any method other than what is coordinated by the government. 13/ 14/ 94- series Soldier who are attending AIT here at Fort Sill will ship to their gaining unit by the afternoon of graduation.**

BATTERY WEBSITE

The Battery maintains a webpage that is updated periodically. The website can be found at <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-19/1-19b.html>. Also, a Battery Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/bravo.battery.714>. There, you can find weekly updates about your Soldiers' training, graduation information, directions, and maps of the Ft Sill-Lawton area. Every attempt will be made to post pictures of all Soldiers during their training. Although it is not possible to identify and label each individual Soldier in these pictures, we will do our best to have plenty of images for you to view.

POINTS OF CONTACT

If we can be of assistance to you in any matter relating to your Soldier, please feel free to contact any of the following people by phone, mail, or email:

Battery Commander: CPT Varela

580-442-1412

Email: **anthony.j.varela2.mil@mail.mil**

Battery 1SG: 1SG Thomas

580-442-1415

Email: **frederick.thomas97.mil@mail.mil**